

What is Claimed is:

1. A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps having a working position and a separation position, comprising:
 - 5 a first component having a handle, a beak, and an intermediate portion connecting said handle and said beak; said intermediate portion of said first component having two opposed semicircular processes, and having two generally opposed groove portions disposed about a periphery of the intermediate portion of the first component;
 - 10 a second component having a handle, a beak, and an intermediate portion connecting said handle and said beak; said intermediate portion of said second component having two opposed semicircular processes, and having two generally opposed groove portions disposed about a periphery of the intermediate portion of the second component;
 - 15 wherein in said working position, said two opposed semicircular processes of said first component are engaged within respective ones of said two generally opposed groove portions of said second component; and
 - 20 wherein in said separation position, said two opposed semicircular processes of said first component are not engaged within respective ones of said two generally opposed groove portions of said second component; wherein the beaks of said first component and of said second component are angled with respect to the long axis of the handle; and
 - 25 whereby in said separation position, said first component can be manually removed from said second component.

2. A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said beak of said first component and said beak of said second component extend generally in parallel with a centerline between said handle portions.

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3. A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said beak of said first component and said beak of said second component extend generally transversely to a centerline between said handle portions.

10 4. A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said first component and said second component are composed of steel.

5. A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said first component and said second component are composed of plastic.

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6. A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said first component and said second component are composed of transparent material and serve as light pipes.

7. A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a lamp element attached to a free end of a handle portion of said first component, connected so as to direct light through the handle portion and into said intermediate portion and
5 said beak portion.

8. A sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising at least one friction engagement element disposed on a surface of each respective one of said intermediate portions of said first and second components, such that in a working
10 position the first and second components will be retained in their relative positions by frictional forces therebetween, while being manually movable into other positions by a force sufficient to overcome the frictional force therebetween.